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FOREIGN NEWS ON NUTS

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BRAZIL NUT CROP AND EXPORTS FIRST SIX MONTHS 1927

The total receipts of Brazil nuts at Manaus, Brazil, during the first six months of 1927 amounted to 20,712,114 pounds as compared with the receipt of 19,630,195 pounds during the same period of 1926, showing an increase of 1,082,919 pounds or 5.5 per cent, according to a report forwarded to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the United States Department of Agriculture by Vice Consul George E. Seltzer at Manaus.

The Brazil nut season opens in December and the bulk of the crop is exported from January to June. The quantities available for export depend largely upon rainfall being sufficient during these months to make possible the transportation of the nuts from the interior to Manaus and Itacoatiara. The peak shipments usually take place during March and April when the rivers and streams should be at their highest level. Average exports of Brazil nuts range around 26,000,000 pounds annually. The bulk of the crop is exported from Manaus.

Navigation normal during 1927

In contrast with the severe drought conditions in 1926 which caused many of the rivers to dry up to an unusual degree thereby hindering normal navigation on the upper rivers, all of the rivers this year had sufficient water to permit normal transportation. This contributed greatly to the steady and regular arrivals of Brazil nuts until the end of June.

The following table shows the arrivals at Manaus by months during the first six months of 1926 and 1927.

BRAZIL NUTS: Arrivals at Manaus, first six months,
1926 and 1927

Month	1926	1927
	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Pounds</u>
January	1,200,998	1,716,691
February	2,235,206	3,073,997
March	3,373,843	5,250,336
April	4,000,819	5,898,009
May	4,566,509	3,440,505
June	4,252,820	1,332,576
Total	19,630,195	20,712,114

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Exports

The total exports of Brazil nuts from Manaus during the first six months of 1927 amounted to 19,993,344 pounds as compared with 16,535,904 pounds during the same period of 1926, and 14,142,576 pounds in the first six months of 1925. In 1927 the United States took 53 per cent of the total exports as compared with 48 per cent in 1926 and with 43 per cent in 1925; England took 42 per cent in 1927 as compared with about 48 per cent in 1926, and the balance was divided among Germany, Holland and other continental ports. In 1927 Germany took 4.9 per cent of the total.

In 1927 all shipments for the United States were destined to New York, whereas in 1926 about 5 per cent of the total to the United States went to Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle and Portland, Oregon, the other 95 per cent going to New York.

The monthly quantities in pounds exported to the United States and to Europe were as follows:

BRAZIL NUTS: Exports to the United States and Europe during the first half of 1926 and 1927

Month	To the United States		To Europe	
	1926	1927	1926	1927
	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Pounds</u>
January	-----	421,232	414,288	1,215,648
February	337,120	592,928	2,387,504	1,045,296
March	1,025,696	1,008,672	308,336	3,578,512
April	1,977,136	3,872,288	1,664,544	1,205,904
May	2,184,000	3,586,016	1,802,416	930,944
June	2,433,200	1,642,480	2,001,664	893,424
Total	7,957,152	11,123,616	8,578,752	8,869,728

Source: Consul G. E. Seltzer at Manaus.

Prices

The following table shows the average monthly prices at Manaus per bag of 112 pounds of large sized nuts during recent years.

BRAZIL NUTS: Prices at Manaos, first six months, 1925, 1926 and 1927,
per bag of 112 pounds

Month	:	1925	:	1926	:	1927
	:	<u>Dollars</u>	:	<u>Dollars</u>	:	<u>Dollars</u>
January	:	8.48	:	10.73	:	6.08
February	:	9.75	:	8.55	:	7.43
March	:	11.37	:	8.00	:	10.45
April	:	13.74	:	6.05	:	10.44
May	:	14.16	:	7.17	:	11.56
June	:	15.00	:	7.13	:	13.38
Average	:	12.08	:	7.94	:	9.89

General conditions

While early estimates put the Brazil nut crop for 1927 at from 8,800 to 11,000 short tons, the export figures now available show that the total crop for the year 1927 amounted to 10,400 short tons, as compared with 13,800 tons in 1926 and with 9,190 tons in 1925. The threatened shortage of large nuts at the beginning of the 1927 shipping season created an unusual demand for all sizes and resulted in bringing prices for all grades almost up to the levels of those prevailing in 1925, a year when Brazil nuts brought the highest prices on record.

It is claimed that on the whole the general quality of the 1927 crop was poor, which is ascribed to the fact that the fruit matured during a period of abnormal drought. In addition, deterioration is said to have set in earlier than usual and exporters had to incur heavy expense during the latter part of the crop for reconditioning the nuts to make them fit for shipment.

Prospects for 1928

All indications at the present time point to a much larger crop for 1928. Some shippers are already putting the total at 14,300 short tons. Until the effects of the seasonal heavy windstorms during August and September are known, however, no reliable estimates can be made.

